

VIA: _____
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. MASA-1741

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE
Attention: ☒ ☐
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna

DATE: 10 June 1952

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

SPECIFIC— USAGE - Living and Travel Conditions in Slovakia

Attached are two USAGE reports on living and travel conditions in Slovakia. They were obtained in the course of an operational debriefing of a prospective USAGE subagent (SLR-01), who recently came out of Slovakia for training and return. Since the use of the source of these reports as a resident agent in Slovakia is contemplated, any evaluations of the reports for content, accuracy, and reporting ability would be appreciated.

2-Wash. w/3 atts.
2-Vien. w/2 atts.
1-Yran. w/ 2 atts.
1-POB w/1 att.
1-MOB w/1 att.
1-JOE w/1 att.
1-MKTOPAZ w/1 att.
1-USAGE w/att.
1-chrono

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(C) Foreign Relations ☐

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Date: 2005

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TRAVEL CONDITIONS IN SLOVAKIA

1. It is generally inadvisable to start a conversation on any subject in a train. It is further inadvisable to walk in trains or to loiter at stations before or after the arrival of trains.

2. Police checks should be expected at larger railroad stations and also particularly on certain lines. These lines are:

- a. Bratislava-Kuty
- b. Bratislava-Kosice, especially after Salina and between Kysak and Presov *
- c. Mihalany-Cierna nad Tisou
- d. Kosice-Medzilaborce
- e. Kosice-Tahanovce (special workers' trains on this line are only rarely controlled)
- f. Breclav-Znojmo via Valtice

* The best train between Bratislava and Kosice is the night express leaving Bratislava at about 2300 hours. It is usually overcrowded.

3. The normal procedure for the police checks is that two SNB men in uniform, sometimes accompanied by an STB man, ask for the Obciansky Preukaz ("Kontrolla Obciansky Preukazov"). Only in the case of suspicion is further investigation made as a rule.

4. At the exit of most railroad stations, and almost invariably at the larger ones, two SNB men are permanently stationed to make Obciansky Preukaz spot checks. Stations where these controls are made only rarely are:

- a. Male Nadrazie Bratislava
- b. Vinohrady (formerly Kynanitka)
- c. Raca
- d. Cerveny-Most

market.

7. Travel in airplanes is particularly difficult. Travellers are strictly checked by police before boarding the plane, and searched for firearms and cameras. Cameras are collected and returned after the flight is completed. Tickets are issued by the government travel bureaus only, and are usually issued only to persons travelling officially. The fare is comparatively low, with a flight from Bratislava to Kosice costing only 950. and a round trip flight, valid for two months, costing 1,400.

8. Bus travel for long distances is practically impossible. The longest existing runs known to source are those between Bratislava and Nitra via Modra, Trnava, and Sereď. Another bus line exists from Nitra via Zlate-Moravce to Banska Bystrica, and a third from Nitra via Levice, Vahne, Banska Stiavnica to Banska Bystrica. The ordinary bus runs only cover short distances. Police checks on busses are rare.

9. Railroad time tables are on sale at railroad stations and tobacco shops at Kc 40.

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PRICES AND RATIONING IN SLOVAKIA

1. People in Slovakia are entitled to receive 120 textile coupon points per year.

2. The following food ration coupons are issued monthly:

1.750 kilo meat
0.250 kilo lard or vegetable fat
0.250 kilo butter
? kilo flour
1.250 kilo sugar
? kilo potatoes

3. Potatoes and flour are sufficient, but meat and fat are scarce. Most meat is sent to canning factories. Peasants are strictly supervised regarding delivery of products. No slaughtering is permitted on farms, and may only be done in government slaughter houses.

4. At the present time both food and textiles can be bought in practically any store, but only at the higher prices shown in the following paragraph.

5. The following prices were valid at the end of April 1952:

	<u>With Coupons</u>	<u>Without Coupons</u>
Rain coat		
Rain coat	Kc 1,500. (44 Points)	Kc 5,000. - 8,000.
Man's suit	2,200. - 3,000. (70 Points)	5,000. - 16,000.
Shoes	450. - 600. (55-60 Points)	2,000. - 5,000.
Boots	only for the military	10,000.
Short overcoat	2,200. (60 Points)	5,000. - 6,000.
Winter overcoat	3,500. (60 Points)	6,000. - 18,000.
Man's shirt	250. (22 Points)	600. - 1,000.
Hat	-	250. - 600.
Man's socks	25. - 35. (1 - 4 Points)	50. - 120.
Nylon stockings	-	1,200. - 1,500.
Kunert silk lady's stockings	-	800.

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Meat (per kilo)	95.	160. - 200.
Pork	90.	250.
Fat	120.	500.
Butter	60.	220. - 250.
Milk	5.	12.

6. Meat, fat, and milk are scarcely to be found on the free market.

7. Food served in restaurants where meat and fat coupons are required sells at the following prices:

A very plain meal with coupons at 25., without coupons 50.
 A mediocre meal with coupons 51., without coupons 100. A
 good meal with coupons 140., without coupons starting at
 150. Wine sells at 250. to 500. per liter. Four qualities
 of beer are sold at 15., 3., 6., and 4.40. Slivovic of
 45 strength sells at 500. per liter, of 50 strength at
 750., and of 55 strength at 970. The vermouth there should
 be only one brand of liquor on the market, and it should
 sell at 500. per liter. Corn costs 450. to 500. per liter.

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